



Town of Darien

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Health Department

April, 2020

Quarterly Report to the Board of Selectmen

During this quarter, we usually begin the permitting and inspection of seasonal food service facilities and public pools. Water sampling at Weed and Pear Tree Point Beaches begins before Memorial Day and is conducted weekly through Labor Day. Semi-annual inspections of cosmetology salons are performed this month and our regular inspections of food service facilities continue. None of the above activities are occurring at this time as most of the above facilities and activities are currently closed by Order of the Governor. Our responsibility has been to revise our procedures to maintain the delivery of regular responsibilities while focusing on the unique challenges posed by COVID-19.

Ticks

- We have made arrangements to have ticks submitted by concerned residents directly to the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, instead of being processed by this office – directions are provided on our website. Follow-ups on positive test results are still being done by our Nurse. In past years, it was very unusual to have ticks submitted before March, but residents began submitting them in January this year. Results of testing through March 31:

Lyme	Anaplasma	Babesia	Ticks Tested	Multi Virus
3	1	1	18	0

Food Protection Program

- We issued 132 food service permits during the January renewal process. As of March 31, a total of 51 establishments remain open, serving take-out, curbside or home delivery of food. Eleven of these facilities are on I-95.

COVID_19 Response:

While the Health Department and Town Hall offices are currently closed to the public, staff is in the office working alternate days (with the exception of the Director of Health who is on-site every day) processing applications, checking emails, answering the phone, responding to voicemails while striving to protect public health during this uncertain time.

We are pleased to have participated in arranging for a Monday & Friday COVID-19 drive-through mobile test site at the High School. According to the Medical Director, results are currently available within two days.

Food Service Operations:

- A list of facilities providing take out, curbside and/or delivery service is maintained on the website and provided to Human Services and the Senior Center program for public reference.
- To ensure the safety of the food, and food workers, this office has established a reporting system with each facility while surveying employee health, reviewing various food handling practices, such as temperature requirements, no bare hand contact of ready to eat foods, sanitation practices and reminding managers of the need to enforce social distancing, not only for take-out patrons but also among employees. We are always available for questions or advice and will continue to work closely with all our food establishments.
- Updated guidance and informational materials are circulated to those facilities that remain open at least once a week.
- Weekly summaries of food service activities will be made available on Fridays

COVID-19 patient tracking and interviewing

- Demographic data on positive cases has been provided to the First Selectman's office and First Responders are provided with addresses of positive cases on a daily basis.
- An additional part time public health nurse had been retained to assist in conducting interviews with reported positive cases. We are offering home care guidance, while verifying isolation/quarantine processes and answering questions as needed.
- The nurses are conducting daily interviews with our three assisted living facilities to assess residential and employee health as well as PPE status.
- We are collaborating with the Human Resources Department in monitoring COVID-19 cases with Town Employees and establishing return to work policies that protect all.
- As of April 9, 2020, this office has received reports of 112 positive cases, with two deaths and five hospitalizations.

We remain hopeful and optimistic that our seasonal facilities for food service, beaches, parks and pools can be reopened soon and will be prepared to perform inspections and issue permits as soon as conditions allow.

Respectfully Submitted

David Knauf
Director of Health